

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 and 28-34 stand rejected, with claims 22-27 objected to in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 6 and 23 have been amended and therefore claims 1-27 remain in this application.

The Examiner objects to claims 6 and 32 as being indefinite under 35 USC §112 (second paragraph). Specifically, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner objects to the phrase “overall electrically insulating between top and bottom” in reference to the spacer. Applicants have amended claim 6 to recite that the spacer is electrically insulating between “a top and bottom of said spacer,” thereby curing any indefiniteness in the claim.

Claim 23 is objected to as lacking “antecedent basis” for “said lane.” Applicants have amended claim 23 to depend from claim 22 which recites “spaced from the array by a lane,” thereby providing clear antecedent basis.

In view of the above amendments, no further basis remains in claims 6 and 23 for rejection under 35 USC §112 and any further rejection thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-21 and 28-34 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. 2002/0003519) in view of Levine (U.S. Patent 5,902,165). It is noted that Kim has a U.S. filing date of June 29, 2001, whereas the present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/868,306 filed June 18, 2001, i.e., filed prior to the Kim US filing date! It is also noted that priority in the previous application is based

upon that application being a national phase entry and priority back to GB 9827900.3 filed December 19, 1998 has been claimed.

As a result, Kim is not available as a prior art reference against any claims in the present application and the primary reference Kim is unavailable in any rejection under 35 USC §103. Inasmuch as the primary reference is not available, there is no support for the rejection of claims 1-21 and 28-34 under 35 USC §103 over the Levine reference by itself. Accordingly, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 USC §103 with respect to the Levine reference and any further rejection thereunder by the Examiner is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 22-27 is very much appreciated, although it is believed unnecessary for applicants to further amend those claims at this time placing them in independent form.

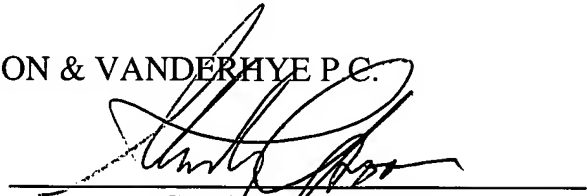
Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 1-34 as amended are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicants' undersigned representative.

CROSSLAND et al
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Respectfully submitted,

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